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Surveys. The explorations cannot be sustained by private individuals, and no private person can defray the expenses of the necessary publication. Labor is secured here at a cheaper rate by the government than in any other field, for salaries are small, and much work is done gratuitously. Students as a rule are poor, and the number of rich men engaged in its pursuit is small indeed. To withdraw government aid is to destroy a most useful competition, and to leave many departments at least in the hands of those few rich men.

But in further self-contradiction, Gen. Garfield gives qualified support to the proposed new organization of the government surveys by which all those at present in existence are to be abolished, and a single organization placed in its stead. Now the wholesome "competition between mind and mind," which he desires to encourage, could not be more effectually suppressed than by this method. As the surveys are now organized, they stimulate each other, offer a wider field for the development of science, and furnish a supply of intellectual food from which the text-books of the next half century will be drawn. And Gen. Garfield desires this work practically suspended, and the United States to retire from the position which she now holds in the commonwealth of nations, as a patron and producer of knowledge for her people.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—Notes on the Aphidæ of the United States, with descriptions of species occurring west of the Mississippi. By C. V. Riley and J. Monell. Extracted from the Bulletin of the U. S. Geological Survey, F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geologist-in-Charge. Washington, Jan., 1879. 8vo, pp. 32, 2 plates.

Catalogue of the Publications of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geologist. 3d edition, revised to Dec., 1878. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1879. 8vo, pp. 52.

Notes on the Natural History of Fort Macon, N. C., and vicinity (No. 5). By Drs. Elliott Coues and H. C. Yarrow. (From the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Phila., August, 1878.) 8vo, pp. 19.

Die Orthopteren-Fauna Istriens. Von Dr. Hermann Krauss. (Aus dem LXXVIII. Bande der Sitzb. der k. Akad. der Wissensch. 1. Abth. Oct. Heft. Jahrg. 1878.) 8vo, pp. 90, 6 plates.

The Quarterly Journal of Conchology, Vol. 1, No. 17, Nov., 1878. London, Hardwicke & Bogue. Price one shilling. 8vo, pp. 32.

Bulletin of the United States National Museum. No. 1-2, Contribution to North American Ichthyology. No. 3, A—On the Distribution of the Fishes of the Allegheny region of South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee, with descriptions of new or little known species. By David S. Jordan and Alembert W. Brayton. B—A Synopsis of the family Catostomidæ. By David S. Jordan. Department of the Interior, Washington, Government Printing Office. 1878, 8vo, pp. 233.

United States Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel. Systematic Geology. By Clarence King. Illustrated by XXVIII plates and XII Analytical Geological Maps, and accompanied by a geological and topographical Atlas. Washington, 1878. 4to, pp. 803.

Wanderings in South America, the north-west of the United States and the Antilles, in the years 1812, 1816, 1820 and 1824; with original instructions for the perfect preservation of Birds, etc., for cabinets and natural history. By Charles Waterton, Esq. New edition. Edited with biographical introduction and explanatory index, by the Rev. J. G. Wood. With 100 illustrations. London, Macmillan & Co., 1879. 8vo, pp. 520. \$6.50.

Notes on the Life and Character of Joseph Henry. Read before the Philosophical Society of Washington. By James C. Welling, Oct. 26th, 1878, (Extracted from the Bulletin of the Society.) 8vo, pp. 28.

The Natural History of the Agricultural Ant of Texas. A monograph of the habits, architecture and structure of *Pogonomyrmex barbatus*. By Henry Christopher McCook. Author's edition. Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1879. 8vo, pp. 306, 24 plates.

Report of the British "Transit of Venus." Expedition to Kerguelen island. Zoölogy. Seals and Cetaceans. By William Henry Flower, F.R.S. 4to, pp. 6. ? date. From the author.

Preliminary Report of the Field Work of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories for the season of 1878. By F. V. Hayden. 8vo. pp. 29. Government Printing Office, Washington. From the author.

Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg, ein Tagewerk auf dem Felde der Naturforschung des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts. Von Johannes Hanstein. Bonn, 1877. From the author.

Bemerkungen über den Vorderarm niederer Wirbelthiere. Von C. Gegenbaur. 8vo, pp. 314-319. Heidelberg, July, 1877. From the author.

Ueber das Koppskelet von *Alepocephalus rostratus* Risse. Von C. Gegenbaur. 8vo, pp. 42, Taf. II. (Ext. from Morph. Jahrbuch 4, Suppl.) Heidelberg, Jan., 1878. From the author.

The Palæontologist, No. 3, Jan. 15., 1879. 8vo, pp. 17-24. By U. P. James. Cincinnati, Ohio. From the editor.

Medical and Surgical Reporter: A weekly Journal. Edited by D. G. Brinton, M.D., Nos. 1139, Dec. 28, 1878, and 1140 Jan. 4, 1879. From the editor.

Catalogue of the birds of Antigua and Barbuda. From collections made for the Smithsonian Institution, by Mr. Fred. A. Ober, with his observations. By Geo. N. Lawrence. (Ext. Proc. U. S. National Museum.) 8vo, pp. 232-242. Published Dec. 9, 1878. From the author.

Description of a New Species of Cypselidæ of the genus *Chætura*. By Geo. N. Lawrence. (Ext. from Annals of the N. Y. Acad. Sci., Vol. 1, No. 8.) 8vo. pp. 255-6. Read Nov. 11, 1877. From the author.

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Commissioners on Inland Fisheries, for the year, ending Sept. 30, 1878. 8vo, pp. 63. (Public Document, No. 34.) Boston, 1879. From the Commissioners.

Seventh Report of the State Entomologist (Walsh, 1; LeBaron, 4; Thomas, 2), on the Noxious and Beneficial Insects of the State of Illinois. Second Annual Report. By Cyrus Thomas, Ph.D., State Entomologist. 8vo. pp. 290. Springfield Ill.. D. W. Lusk, State Printer, 1878. From the author.

Address of Prof. Augustus R. Grote, Vice-President Section B, before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the St. Louis Meeting, 1878. (Ext. from the Proc. of the Association, Vol. XXVII.) 8vo, pp. 20. Salem, Mass., 1878. From the author.

On the Classification and Distribution of the Cray-fishes. By T. H. Huxley, Sec. R. S., V.P.Z.S. (Ext. from Proc. Zool. Soc., London, June 4, 1878. 8vo, pp. 751-788. From the author.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

### BOTANY.

ON NOMENCLATURE.—"I think it is about time that the notion that a species must necessarily be named after some peculiarity that it possesses, should pass into the limbo of exploded ideas." This passage, in the article "Walks Round San Francisco," in the NATURALIST, December, 1878, page 791, induces me to